



The Lord be with you: **And also with you**

This is the day that the Lord has made: **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Loving God, be with us now as we come intentionally into your presence. **Amen**

Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

The Ascension of Jesus

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Reflection

When Jesus ascended to become physically part of the Trinity of God again, the world didn't end, heavens gates didn't close, all was not lost. Rather we see worship, joy and new purpose in the disciples.

We see that those left behind are far from abandoned, in 9 days (7 now!) following ascension God sends another part of God, the Holy Spirit, to be with them, to be with us always. To minister to us, to guide us, to prepare us for our role as Christ's hands and heart here on earth.

We are left with reassurance, we are left with purpose.

What we do matters to God, not in a watching, waiting to punish us kind of way, but in a loving, encouraging, supportive parent type of way, whose heart grows when they see our hearts grow for care of ourselves, others and the world.

Can our purpose be accomplished from the confines of a home? Absolutely – because that smile, that call, that word of encouragement, that prayer, that food cooked to nourish, that support of a good cause, that opening of our heart to God's presence, that breath in the sunlight matters. So breathe, pray and smile, all is never lost. Amen

Angel 1: Jesus, it's wonderful to have you back with us. So, what happens next?

Jesus: What do you mean?

Angel 1: Now that you've restored the relationship between your Father and his creation, how is this going to be made known throughout the world?

Jesus: I've left that responsibility with my disciples.

Angels: You've done what?!!!

Jesus: When they receive the Holy Spirit they will be empowered to make known my Father's love to the ends of the earth.

Angels and Disciples: Wow!

(Salt for sermons)

Worship Songs

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus with lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ajdmCcICc8>

All Heaven Declares: Lucy Gibson (attached)

The Ascension with Lyrics (Phil Wickham)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23u5t5_WPc

Prayers (led by Morag Stewart)

Heavenly Father we come to you in the greatness of your love and lift up our hearts in prayer and praise. We thank you that the way to your presence is always open through Jesus Christ and that you invite us to draw near in full assurance of faith. Help us to pray simply and sincerely, unselfishly and gratefully, remembering the needs of others as well as our own, and giving thanks always for everything in the name of Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God our Father, as we pray for your blessing to rest upon us your church. Help us to see the kind of church you need today. Hold up before us the vision of your kingdom, a kingdom of justice and mercy, truth and compassion.

Help us to grasp the meaning of the gospel which you have entrusted to us, and give us grace to live by it.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are in need. For health and social care systems, for voluntary and aid agencies, as they seek to provide help and support.

Teach us to be ever mindful of those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less its extras.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for children and young people, for heads and governing bodies, as they make plans in this difficult time. For all education and training establishments.

We pray for those whose employment, businesses and livelihoods have been lost or which are under threat. Those whose investments and finances are causing deep anxiety.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, those awaiting diagnosis and treatment, those who are recovering. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain and suffering. We pray especially for those who have no one to help them, that in their loneliness they may know that you are with them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We take a moment to lift the prayers of our own hearts before God...

Joining all our prayers together we say the prayer our saviour taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The light of God surround us.

The love of God enfold us.

The power of God protect us.

And the blessing of God Almighty

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you and those whom you love always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ Amen**